

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 79

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study  
proprietary and career colleges relative to their  
creation, operation, and regulation.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's system of higher education seeks to meet the needs of its  
citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission seeks to ensure the  
educational and fiscal integrity and quality of all institutions under its oversight; and

WHEREAS, the number of proprietary and career colleges offering baccalaureate or  
post-baccalaureate degrees is increasing in Tennessee as elsewhere, thus presenting  
Tennessee students with additional options for postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that a comprehensive review of Tennessee's  
governance and regulation of these institutions be conducted for the benefit of all Tennesseans;  
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONCURRING, that a special joint committee shall hereby be established to conduct a full  
review of the state's statutory and regulatory oversight of the creation and operation of  
proprietary and career colleges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be charged with reviewing  
applicable statutes and the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Higher Education  
Commission with regard to proprietary and career colleges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be charged with creating  
recommendations for legislation and regulation commensurate with the special committee's  
findings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of:

(1) The chair of the Senate Education Committee and two (2) members of the education committee of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate;

(2) The chair of the House Education Committee and two (2) members of the education committee of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) The executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and one (1) member of the commission to be appointed by the executive director of the commission;

(4) Two (2) representatives from Tennessee proprietary or career colleges that are nationally accredited and degree granting, of which, one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate;

(5) Two (2) representatives from Tennessee proprietary or career colleges that are regionally accredited and degree granting, of which, one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(6) Two (2) representatives from Tennessee proprietary or career colleges that are non-degree granting institutions, of which, one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and one (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the chairs of the education committees of both the Senate and House of Representatives, who shall jointly serve as co-chairs of the committee, and shall elect from its members a vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the committee upon request of the chair(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the members of the

House and Senate Education Committees of the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly no later than January 1, 2008, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.